

University College of Medicine Student Council's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the George Washington Carver Research Foundation Student Award, and an American Council on Education Fellowship.

For this lifetime of service to education and commitment to community involvement, I rise today to recognize and salute Dr. David B. Henson as he becomes the seventeenth President of Lincoln University. I think I speak for all Missourians when I say that we are grateful that he has chosen a Missouri university to continue his service to higher education.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3246. An act to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against Government bureaucracy; to ensure that employees entitled to reinstatement get their jobs back quickly; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economics harm on employers.

H.R. 3310. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1879. A bill to provide for the permanent extension of income averaging for farmers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 1880. A bill to provide States with the authority to permit certain employers of domestic workers to make annual wage reports; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1881. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, relating to the installation of emergency locator transmitters on aircraft; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COATS, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1882. A bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KEMPTHORNE (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BINGA-

MAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GLENN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 201. A resolution to commemorate and acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 202. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINTS RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1879. A bill to provide for the permanent extension of income averaging for farmers; to the Committee on Finance.

##### FARMERS' LEGISLATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I introduced an amendment to the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1997 back in 1997. It extended to our agriculture producers—farmers and ranchers—the ability to average their income over a 3-year period. The amendment was included and made part of the U.S. Tax Code, but only after further negotiations, sunset the provision after 3 years which would make it run out in 2001.

Today, I would like to introduce a bill that would make income averaging for our agriculture producers permanent in the U.S. Tax Code. This bill will give our agriculture producers—farmers and ranchers—a fair tool to offset the unpredictable nature of their business.

Our man in the chair this morning from the great agricultural State of Nebraska, and the rest of us in the breadbasket of this country understand what farmers and ranchers go through. It has always been a good business and at times it is a great business. But we are going through some times now that are very stressful. As a friend of mine said the other day, there is nothing wrong down on the farm except the price. That is what we have now.

There are not very many segments of the American economy that are taking in the same amount of money for their commodity today as they were taking when World War II ended, some 50 years ago. However, they are expected to keep producing food not only in generous proportions but also the safest,

the best quality and nutritious food in the world.

What makes this Nation unique is, we not only produce it, but we have the infrastructure that allows distribution—our processors, purveyors, transportation, grocery stores, everything from the breakfast table of America all the way back to the first seed that goes into the ground is unmatched anywhere in the world. It is something of a great marvel in this country. And it is also true that every one of us alive today in this country goes about our daily business of feeding the Nation. Somewhere along the line, we are participants in this great infrastructure to deal with our own subsistence.

But basically, I want to talk about—the production level, I don't think there is a commodity today that is not hurting when it comes to the marketplace and to the whims of Mother Nature's elements that she rains down on agriculture. Agriculture production is a 7-day-a-week job as anybody that has ever worked on a dairy farm knows. I assumed that most Americans knew that, but I am finding out that I was wrong. They think milk cows take off the weekend, too, but they don't. Farming is an ongoing situation—7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Farmers and ranchers take pride in their work. They produce as economically as they possibly can, knowing that they fall under the old philosophy that they although they sell wholesale, they have to buy retail, and they pay the freight both ways, knowing that agriculture has always been in that kind of a predicament.

Not only do they take great pride in what they produce, but probably no other segment of the American public has a greater understanding of land stewardship and the environmental problems that face our country today. Yet, very few of them are ever asked their advice on how to deal with an environmental problem. Several colleagues that serve in this body, who grew up on a farm or a ranch, certainly understand the frustration of the business. They only get paid about two, maybe three times a year. So it is a crucial time for the farm families across this country when we take a look at the situation we find ourselves in now. With the financial collapse of many Asian markets in the Pacific rim, we see wheat at an all-time low. Our corn and soybeans will suffer. As far as export trade is concerned, we export a lot more than we receive. We also see a time when we fall victim to the psychology of the market more than the market itself.

With the recent passage of the freedom to farm bill, we told farmers that subsidies were going to go away, that they were going to have to stand on their own. We also said that we would give them the tools with which to operate their farms.

Market forces are unique. We still fall victim to flood and drought, disease, new infestations which are far,